

Rank and Grading Changes - effective 1st January 2027

The Board has resolved to make changes to both Ranks and Grades and this has meant the redefinition of some Tournaments.

Rank Change

A new rank, **District Master**, has been created and represents those players who are currently Local Masters but have 5 or more A points. A third of a current members are Local Masters and this change will split that group approximately in two and give players a further step to aim for. The change will not impact events that these players can play in. Currently, Local Masters are able to play in Intermediate Tournaments. The updated definition of Intermediate includes both Local Masters and those District Masters with less than 200 rating points.

Rank	Sum of "A" and "B" Points	Minimum number of "A" Points
Novice	-	-
Certificate of Proficiency	5	-
Club Master	20	-
Local Master	50	-
District Master	50	5
Provincial Master	100	50
Master	200	100
National Master	350	175
Life Master	500	250
Grand Master	1000	500
Silver Grand Master	2500	1250
Gold Grand Master	4000	2500
Emerald Grand Master	8000	6000
Platinum Grand Master	10000	7500

Grade Changes

Two new grades, **Restricted** & **Novice** have been created and the definitions of the other grades have been updated.

Open	Life Master or higher rank
Restricted	Provincial Master, Master, or National Master or District Master with 200+ rating points
Intermediate	Local Master or District Master with fewer than 200 rating points
Junior	Club Master or Certificate of Proficiency.
Novice	Certificate of Proficiency not yet attained

Tournament Definitions

The introduction of a Restricted grade has meant a rename of the Restricted Tournament which will now be known as a **Limited** Tournament. The restrictions applied to those tournaments was in conflict with the definition of the Restricted grade and causing confusion.

Novice Tournaments (40C) - A Tournament open to all Players who have a grading less than Junior as at the preceding 1 January.

Junior Tournaments (3B) - A Tournament open to all Players who have a grading less than Intermediate as at the preceding 1 January.

Intermediate Tournament (5B) - A Tournament open to all Players who have a grading less than Restricted as at the preceding 1 January.

Limited Tournament (8B) - A Tournament open to all Players except those playing in Open-Open, Open-Restricted and Restricted-Restricted pairings. Open and Restricted Players can compete as long as they are playing with an Intermediate, Junior or Novice player.

Restricted Tournament (3A) - A Tournament open to all Players who have a grading less than Open as at the preceding 1 January.

Open Tournament - A Tournament open to Players of all Grades.

The definition of a Multigrade Tournament has been withdrawn. The practice of awarding prizes to top Intermediate Pairs/Teams or Junior Pairs/Teams or stratifying fields to distribute prizes is common practice around the country and this definition is no longer needed.